

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 799

By Yager

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Rick McMillan for his great courage and resourcefulness.

WHEREAS, over much of its history, Tennessee has been known as the Volunteer State because it has been the home of so many valiant men, women, and children who have responded with great courage and strength of character in times of trouble and adversity; and

WHEREAS, one such outstanding Tennessean is Rick McMillan, who acted with courage and resourcefulness to save the lives of four duck hunters whose boat capsized on the Tennessee River in late December 2009; and

WHEREAS, on that cold, fateful day, four men were duck hunting on the Tennessee River near the Meigs County and Rhea County line when their boat was swamped by strong winds and heavy waves; and

WHEREAS, floating in the middle of the river without engine power, the hunters were exposed and vulnerable to the elements; and

WHEREAS, when the boat capsized, all four hunters clung to the overturned craft for dear life, floating helplessly in the currents of the icy, frigid water; and

WHEREAS, two of the hunters were able to make their way to a nearby duck blind and pull themselves out of the water; soaking wet and unable to offer any assistance to their companions, they waited for rescue from the dangerous situation; and

WHEREAS, a dedicated angler, Rick McMillan was also out on the river that day fishing; as he cruised past the overturned boat, he realized the duck hunters' dire situation and dangerous plight; and

WHEREAS, risking his own safety and facing imminent peril, Mr. McMillan braved the gusting winds and freezing temperatures, and upon reaching the capsized boat, he retrieved the two hunters still in the icy water;

WHEREAS, battling high waves and strong currents, Rick McMillan was also able to reach the two hunters in the duck blind and transport all four men back safely to shore; and

WHEREAS, in the early stages of hypothermia, all four hunters credit Mr. McMillan with saving their lives that fateful day in late December; and

WHEREAS, Rick McMillan was in the right place at the right time and despite the stress and chaos inherent in this emergency, he responded calmly and efficiently, enabling the rescue of all four duck hunters; and

WHEREAS, Rick McMillan is a citizen of whom the Volunteer State is most proud, and his heroic action is clearly deserving of special recognition and praise; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and commend Rick McMillan for his outstanding demonstration of courage, resourcefulness, and presence of mind, as we join with all the citizens of Tennessee in expressing our admiration and appreciation.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we offer our best wishes to Rick McMillan for every success and happiness in the future.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.